



Fall Newsletter 2019

www.ohiowildlife.org

OWMA Officers

President

Nick Schell
State Biologist
USDA-NRCS
200 N. High St. Rm: 522
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-255-2490
Nick.Schell@usda.gov

President-Elect

Caleb Shields
Private Lands Biologist ODNR
Division of Wildlife, District 5
1076 Old Spring Pike Xenia, OH
937-347-0926
Caleb.shields@dnr.state.oh.us

Treasurer

Viorel Popescu
Assistant Professor
Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701
740-593-2381
popescu@ohio.edu

Secretary

Lindsey Korfel
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ohio Field Office
4625 Morse Rd Ste 102
614-416-8993
Lindsey_korfel@fws.gov

Past President

Marci Lininger
District Environmental
Coordinator
Ohio Department of
Transportation District 6
740-833-8065
Marci.lininger@dot.ohio.gov

From the President

Dear OWMA Member:

It is with much honor to be serving as OWMA President for 2019. As many of you may know, this will be the associations 60th anniversary! To celebrate this milestone, we wanted to bring you a conference that both champions conservation successes while bearing in mind the importance of the future trends in conservation. With this year's theme: *Applying Wildlife Conservation & Management Today - For Tomorrow*. We hope to do just that!

Your comments matter. Our post conference survey had excellent participation this February, along with positive feedback and suggestions. As a result, we will be increasing the ability for students to network with wildlife professionals by offering a "speed networking" opportunity during one of our breaks. We will also incorporate a summary of Thursday evenings business meeting at the start of the conference. And NEW for this year, we will be having a Pint Night cooperatively with the OCTWS and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) immediately following our business meeting. We will continue our partnership with OSU and the 4H Center to provide you all with a variety of interesting and cutting-edge presentations and poster discussions in a comfortable environment. In addition, we will hold our business meeting the evening prior to our conference in Columbus at the Division of Wildlife District 1 conference room. We are so excited to continue this wonderful tradition in our state and can't wait to see you soon!

Yours in Conservation,

Nick A. Schell

President, Ohio Wildlife Management Association

2019 Conference Wrap Up

Our 2019 conference, held January 18th the Ohio State University 4H Center, had 279 attendees and continued the tradition of excellent presentations covering a diverse array of Ohio wildlife issues. Our keynote speaker, Harvey B. Webster, discussed the importance of connecting people to nature and science and reminded us why we're passionate about our profession. Presenters covered distribution trends for recovering wildlife populations, human and wildlife interactions within metropolitan areas, updates on Ohio's furbearers, status of the Monarch butterfly, Ohio's Bird Conservation Initiative efforts, USDA Working Lands for Wildlife Bobwhite Quail efforts and Eastern Red Bat habitat selection among other notable presentations. We also want to thank the Ohio chapter of The Wildlife Society (OCTWS) and the Ohio Division of Wildlife for co-sponsoring the meeting.

OWMA Annual Business Meeting

Continuing a precedent set in 2017, OWMA held last year's business meeting in conjunction with OCTWS the night before the conference on January 17th, 2019. The meeting took place at the Knotty Pine Brewery in Grandview. Johanna Dart – Ohio's Hunting R3 Coordinator shared developments in how the state is tackling the issues of recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters and anglers.

2020 Conference Update

The 60th Ohio Wildlife Conference will be held at The Ohio State University's Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus on Friday, January 24th, 2020. As with last year, lunch will be available at the center as part of meeting registration. For this January we've decided to continue the trend of a joint meeting, along with the addition of Pint Night. This year's business meeting will be held at the DNR Wildlife District 1 office.

As noted above, immediately following OWMA and OCTWS will be holding a joint Pint Night along with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA), stay tuned for detail so come. Additionally, we plan to have an informal meet-&-greet with three of Ohio's new wildlife professionals: Travis Bowman - Ohio Coordinating Biologist with NWTf, John Wallace - Ohio Regionals Representative with PF/QF and Jason Jones -Ohio Grasslands and Grazing Coordinator with PF/QF. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

The OWMA Executive Committee is currently putting together the program for our upcoming conference. We have invited Bradly Blackwell, Project Leader with UDSA APHIS Wildlife Services to be our keynote speaker for this year's conference we anticipate presentations on topics such as efforts to conserve threatened species habitat, status of rabies in our state, the North American conservation model and upland gem bird research. An open call for papers and posters is attached to this newsletter. Note presentations and abstraction submission deadline is October 20th. Conference registration fees will be \$40 for professionals and \$20 for college students. We will continue our effort to get high school students who are interested in science and ecology involved, for the second year OWMA is offering a discounted ticket price of \$10 per student. OWMA realizes the importance of getting students involved early in their education/career journey and is pleased to provide this discount to the next generation of scientist, researchers and ecologists

A reminder to Division of Wildlife employees, attending the OWMA conference is considered a Professional Enhancement (PE) activity. Attendees that qualify can be reimbursed through Union Education Trust Union Education Trust. For more information visit www.uedtrust.org/ or call 1-866-436-7900.

Treasurer's Report

As of September 24th, 2019, our treasury balance is \$7,833.30. We are currently looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of the 2019 conference. If you would like to sponsor this event, please contact Viorel Popescu (popescu@ohio.edu). We encourage all of you to participate in the 2019 conference and continue to support OWMA.

Nominations for Officers

The positions of OWMA President-Elect and Treasurer are up for election this year. If you are interested or wish to make a nomination of some qualified individual, please contact Nick Schell at nick.schell@usda.gov no later than November 15th, 2019. Ballots will be cast electronically (via e-mail) and election results will be announced during the business meeting portion of the conference. For Division of Wildlife employees this is considered professional development and can be done during normal work hours. Other members are encouraged to ask your supervisor if you would be able to serve as an officer as part of your normal job duties.

Achievement Award Nominations

One of OWMA's objectives is to present an Annual Achievement Award in recognition of an outstanding contribution to wildlife research and management in Ohio. The Award is presented to an active OWMA member who has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife management in any of the following areas:

- Writing technical or popular papers on wildlife management in journals or magazines.
- Writing or developing newspaper articles or columns, drawings, motion pictures, paintings, photographs, books, bulletins, pamphlets, or radio and TV scripts.
- Development of new equipment or techniques.
- Development of new and successful game or fish management techniques in the wild or at fish and game hatcheries.

- Active and proven conservation-education programs for youth and/or the general public.
- Exceptional performance of duties in wildlife administration or education.

The Award may also be presented for a specific accomplishment or for consistent and noteworthy career performance. We are now seeking your nominations for the 2019 Achievement Award. Anyone may make a nomination. Please include the nominee's full name and affiliation, along with a contact address and phone number. In order for the nominee to receive a full review, you should also include a list of his/her career and/or academic accomplishments and a brief justification explaining how they meet one or more of the criteria listed above. *All Achievement Award nominations should be sent directly to Nick Schell at Nick.schell@usda.gov by November 15th.* This award will be presented at the OWMA 2019 conference.

Mike Tonkavich was honored with the Ohio Wildlife Management Association Achievement Award in 2018. Mike oversees Ohio's deer program which has consistently ranked among the top destination states for traveling deer hunters. Mike was deserving of last year's award for several reasons, including his years of hard work managing Ohio's notable deer herd, ability to work with constituents of varying perspectives, staying true to his research roots and understanding that success is usually accomplished with compromise. Thanks again for all your efforts Mike!

Get your OCTWS sticker!

Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society stickers will be on sale at the Annual OWMA Conference!



Past annual business meeting agenda

January 17, 2019, Knotty Pine Brewing, Columbus OH

- 1) Welcome – Marci Lininger (6:00pm)
- 2) Johana Dart – recruitment, retention and reactivation. (6:30pm-7:00pm)
- 3) **OWMA (7:15pm-7:45pm)**
 - a) Officer Reports
 - i) President – Marci Lininger
 - ii) President-Elect – Nick Schell - Discuss new potential student involvement both college and high school students.
 - iii) Secretary – Stephen Spear
 - iv) Treasurer – Viorel Popescu
 - b) Old Business
 - i) No Old Business
 - c) New Business
 - i) Officer Election – Stephen Spear
 - 4) Joint Meeting (7:45pm-8:00pm)
 - a) Updates
 - ii) Historian – Allen Lea - Will update about revised bylaws on website.
 - b) Old Business
 - c) New Business
 - 5) OCTWS (8:00pm-8:30pm)
 - a) Officer Reports
 - i) President – Geoff Westerfield
 - ii) President-Elect – Grace Dietsch –
- 4) **Upcoming Workshops**
 - iii) Secretary – Gabe Karns (No report needed, we will just have a printout with minutes)
 - iv) Treasurer – Andy Merkle (No report needed, just have a handout with treasury numbers)
 - b) Student Chapter TWS Reports
 - c) Old Business
 - i) None
 - d) New Business
 - i) Cleveland Conference
 - (1) Volunteers
 - (a) Conference
 - (b) OCTWS table

5) Sponsors

- (a) OCTWS sponsoring
- (b) Need sponsor ideas
- (3) Quiz Bowl Teams
- (4) Alumni get together
- ii) Officer elections – None needed- (nominations submitted, and currents volunteered to rerun.)
- 6) Adjourn – Marci Lininger
- 7) Student and Professional Networking (8:30pm-10:30 or later)